For Mr Jo. Row

ACT

Concerning the Receiving of

ENGAGERS

IN THE

Late Unlawfull VVarre againſt

ENGLAND,

To publick

SATISFACTION.

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Act concerning the receiving of Engagers in the late unlawfull VVar againſt *England*, to publick Satisfaction.

THE Generall Aſſembly conſidering what great offence againſt God, and Scandal to his People at home and abroad, hath ariſen from the late unlawfull Engagement in War againſt *England*, whereby contrary to the Law of God and of Nations, contrary to the Solemn League and Covenant, contrary to the Petitions of almoſt the whole Kingdom, contrary to the Declarations of the Judicatories of this Kirk, contrary to the Proteſtations of a conſiderable part of the Parliament, contrary to the frequent and clear Warnings of the Servants of God in his name, not onely an Aſſociation in Counſels and Armes was made with Malignant perſons, who had formerly ſhewn their diſ-affection to the Covenant and Cauſe, but an invaſion of the Neighbour Nation was proſecuted; from whence flowed the oppreſsion of the perſons, eſtates and conſciences of many of the People of God in this Land, the ſhedding of the blood of ſome, the loſs and diſhonour of this Nation, and ſeverall other inconveniences: And con-

ſidering that the Commiſsioners of the laſt Generall Aſſembly have acquit themſelves faithfully, in ordaining to be ſuſpended from the renewing of the Covenant and from the Ordinance of the Lords Supper, ſuch as are deſigned in their Acts of date the 6. of *October* and 4. of *December* laſt, referring the further conſideration and cenſure of the perſons foreſaid to this preſent Generall Aſſembly: Therefore the Generall Aſſembly for removing of ſuch offences, and for prevention of the like in time coming, and for reſtoring of ſuch as are truly humbled, do Declare and Appoint,

I. That all thoſe who have been guilty and cenſured as aforeſaid, and withal, do not by their addreſſes to Kirk Judicatories teſtifie their diſlike thereof, and give evidences of their Repentance therefore, That theſe be proceſſed, and continuing obſtinate, be excommunicated; But if with all they go on in promoving Malignant Deſignes, that they be forthwith Excommunicated: As alſo that all ſuch perſons guilty as aforeſaid, who after Profeſsion of their Repentance ſhall yet again hereafter relapſe to the promoting any Malignant Deſigne, that theſe be likewiſe forthwith excommunicated.

II. That all theſe who have been guilty and cenſured as aforeſaid, and deſire to teſtifie their Repentance and to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion, ſhall beſides any Confeſſion in publick before the Congregation ſubſcribe the Declaration, hereto ſubjoyned, of their unfained deteſtation and renunciation of that Engagement, and all other Malignant courſes confeſs contrary to the Covenant and Cauſe, Promiſing to keep themſelves from ſuch ways in time coming, and acknowledging that if they ſhall again fall into ſuch defection thereafter, they may juſtly be accompted perfidious backſliders, and breakers of the Covenant and

Oath

Oath of God, and proceeded againſt with the higheſt Cenſures of the Kirk.

III. That of theſe who have been guilty and cenſured as aforeſaid, and deſire now to teſtifie their Repentance, Whoſoever were formerly joyned in Armes or Counſell with *James Graham* in his Rebellion, or who were Generall perſons or Colonels in the late unlawful Engagement, Or who went to *Ireland* to bring over Forces for that effect, Or who have been eminently active in contriving of, or ſeducing unto the ſaid Engagement, Or whoſoever above the degree of a Lieutenant Commanded theſe parties, that in promoving of the ends of the ſaid Engagement ſhed blood within the Kingdom, either before that Armie of Engagers went to *England*, or after their returne, Or who above the degree foreſaid Commanded in the late Rebellion in the North; That none of theſe be admitted or received to give ſatisfaction, but by the Generall Aſſembly or their Commiſsioners.

IV. That all the reſt of theſe who have been guilty, or cenſured as aforeſaid, may be received by the Presbyteries where they reſide.

V. That all who have been guilty as aforeſaid, before their receiving to the Covenant, ſhall make a Solemn publick Acknowledgement in ſuch manner, and before ſuch Congregations as the Commiſsion of the Generall Aſſembly or Presbyteries *reſpectivè* ſhall preſcribe, according to the degree of their offence and ſcandall given.

VI. That none of the foreſaid Perſons be admitted, or received as Elders in any Judicatories of the Kirk, but according to the Act of the General Aſſembly of the

last of *August* 1647. against complyers of the first Classe.

And because many have heretofore made shew and profession of their Repentance, who were not indeed convinced of their guiltinesse, nor humbled for the same, but did thereafter return with the dog to the vomit, and with the sow to the puddle, unto the mocking of God, and the exceeding great reproach and detriment of his Cause: Therefore, for the better determining the Truth and sincerity of the Repentance of those who desire to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion: It is appointed and Ordained that none of those persons who are debarred from the Covenant and Communion shall be admitted and received thereto, but such as after exact tryal, shall be found for some competent time before or after the offer of their Repentance, according to the discretion of the respective Judicatories, to have in their ordinary conversations given real Testimonie of their dislike of the late unlawfull Engagement, and of the courses and wayes of Malignants, and of their sorrow for their accession to the same, and to live soberly, righteously and godly; And if any shall be found, who after the defeating of the Engagers have uttered any Malignant speeches, tending to the approbation of the late unlawfull Engagement, or the bloodshed within the Kingdom for promoving of the ends of the said Engagement, or any other projects or practises within or without the Kingdom, prejudiciall to Religion and the Covenant, or tending to the reproach of the Ministry, or the civil Government of the Kingdom; Or who have unnecessarily or ordinarily conversed with Malignants and disaffected persons, Or who have had hand in, or accession to, or compliance with, or have any wayes coun-

countenanced or promoved any Malignant Design, prejudicial to Religion and the Covenant, That these, notwithstanding their profession of Repentance be not suddenly received, but a competent time, according to the discretion of the Judicatory, be assigned to them for tryall of the evidence of their Repentance, according to the qualifications abovementioned. And the Generall Assembly Ordains Presbyteries to make intimation of this Act in the severall Kirks of their bounds so soon as they can, after the rising of the Generall Assembly, that none pretend ignorance; And that Presbyteries make accompt of their diligence in prosecuting of this Act to the Quarterly meetings of the Commission of this Assembly.

A. Ker.

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after due consideration of the late Engagement in War against the Kingdom of *England*; And having also considered the course pursued and promoted by the Earl of *Lanerk*, *George Monro* and their Adherents in and about *Stirling*, and by others in the late Rebellion in the North, against all which not only eminent Testimonies of Gods Wrath have been given in defeating of them, but they were in themselves sinfull breaches of Covenant, and preferring the interest of man unto God; I do therefore in Gods sight profess, that I am convinced of the unlawfulness of all these ways, as contrary to the Word of God, and to the Solemn League and Covenant, not only in regard of the miscarriages of these that were imployed therein, but also in respect of the nature of these courses themselves; And therefore professing my unfained sorrow for my guiltiness by my accession to the same, do renounce and disclaim the foresaid Engagement and all the courses that were used for carrying on the same, either before or after the defeat of the Engagers, as contrary to the Word of GOD and Solemne League and Covenant, and destructive to Religion and the work of Reformation; And I do promise in the power of the Lords strength, never again to own any of these or the like courses: And if hereafter at any time, I shall be found to promote any Malignant Designe or course, that I shall justly be accompted a perfidious Covenant-breaker and despiser of the Oath of God, and be proceeded against with the highest Censures of the Kirk: Likeas, I do hereby promise to adhere to the National Covenant of this Kingdom, and to the Solemn League and Covenant betwixt the Kingdoms, and to be honest & zealous for promoving all the ends thereof, as I shall be called thereunto of God, and to flee all occasions and temptations that may lead me into any the like snares against the same. Subscribed at the day of

FINIS.